

Quick Reference Guide for Off-Season Influenza Reporting for Local Health Departments

**Michigan Department of Community Health
May 5, 2008**

Please feel free to cut this guide out and post in high-traffic or data entry locations:

Quick Guide to Off-Season Influenza Reporting for Local Health Departments Michigan Department of Community Health

- Off-season or summer influenza reporting is from May through September of each year. MDCH will inform local health departments of any changes to this schedule.
- Individually reported influenza cases or laboratory results should be fully investigated (i.e. complete the Details PDF form on the MDSS Influenza form). The purposes of the investigation is to identify a logical route of exposure when there is not influenza circulating in the community, to determine if the case is a novel influenza infection, or to determine if a laboratory test result was a false positive.
 - 1st investigative step: confirm the presence of an influenza-like illness (acute onset of fever with cough and/or sore throat). If there is not a compatible illness, then document this in the notes section, mark the case as “Not a Case” and close it out without further investigation.
 - 2nd investigative step: Check laboratory results. If the test method is an antibody test/titer, check to see if there is a previous antibody test result for the same patient in MDSS. These test results are only valid if they are paired, so single antibody tests for influenza are non-diagnostic. Single antibody test results can be marked as “Not a Case.” If no other influenza diagnostics were done, the case can be closed out without further investigation.
 - All other cases should be completely investigated. Epidemiologic follow-up should include influenza vaccination history, recent travel, any ill contacts and any livestock exposures.
- Please make every attempt to have influenza rapid (antigen) test specimens saved for viral culture confirmation at MDCH, and contact MDCH at (517) 335-8165 if you have such specimens.
- Please contact MDCH at (517) 335-8165 for any questions. We are more than happy to assist with investigations or provide support if desired!